## SECTION 10 - TURBIDITY

#### SUMMARY

As a result of the 1998-1999 SWQB/NMED monitoring effort in the Jemez River Basin, several exceedances of New Mexico water quality standards for turbidity were documented on Redondo Creek, San Antonio Creek, East Fork of the Jemez River, and Clear Creek. Figures 5.B.1 and 5.B.2 in Section 5 show the land use/cover and land ownership percentages for Redondo Creek (from its mouth on Sulphur Creek to the headwaters). Similarly, Figures 5.C.1, 5.C.2, 5.D.1, 5.D.2, 5.H.1 and 5.H.2, also in Section 5, show the land use/cover and land ownership percentages for San Antonio Creek (from its confluence with East Fork of Jemez River to the headwaters), East Fork of Jemez River (from its confluence with San Antonio Creek to the headwaters), and Clear Creek (from its confluence with Rio de las Vacas to San Gregorio Reservoir), respectively. These streams were also listed in the 2000-2002 §303(d) list for turbidity. Detailed descriptions of these stream segments can be found in subsections B, C, D, and H, Section 5 of this document.



Photo 24. Redondo Creek (NMED Sampling Station 11 - Thermograph T10

#### **ENDPOINT IDENTIFICATION**

# **Target Loading Capacity**

Overall, the target values for this TMDL will be determined based on 1) the presence of numeric criteria, 2) the degree of experience in applying the indicator, and 3) the ability to easily monitor and produce quantifiable and reproducible results. For this TMDL document target values for turbidity are based on numeric criteria. This TMDL is consistent with the State's antidegradation policy.

## **Turbidity**

According to the New Mexico water quality standards (20.6.4.12.J NMAC), the narrative standard for turbidity reads, "Turbidity attributable to other than natural causes shall not reduce light transmission to the point that normal growth, function, or reproduction of aquatic life is impaired or that will cause substantial visible contrast with the natural appearance of the water."

The State's standard leading to an assessment of use impairment is the numeric criterion for turbidity of 25 NTU for a High Quality Coldwater Fishery (HQCWF) and Coldwater Fishery (CWF). Turbidity levels can be inferred from studies that monitor total suspended sediment (TSS) concentrations. Extrapolation from these studies is possible because of the relationship between concentrations of suspended sediments and turbidity. Activities that generate varying amounts of suspended sediment will proportionally change or affect turbidity (USEPA, 1991). In these watersheds both TSS and turbidity were measured. A strong correlation ( $R^2 = 0.95$ ) was found between TSS and turbidity for Redondo Creek (Figure 10-1) and also for San Antonio Creek ( $R^2 = 0.84$ )(Figure 10-2). In addition, the East Fork of Jemez River (Figure 10-3) produced a strong correlation ( $R^2 = 0.88$ ), while Clear Creek (Figure 10-4) did not ( $R^2 = 0.1$ ). Figures 10-1 through 10-4 are located at the end of this section.

#### Flow

Sediment movement in a stream varies as a function of flow. As flow increases the concentration of sediment increases. This TMDL is calculated for each reach at a specific flow. When available, US Geological Survey gages are used to estimate flow. Where gages are absent, geomorphological cross sectional information is taken at each site and the flows are modeled. Gaged streamflow data is not available for Redondo Creek, San Antonio Creek, East Fork of the Jemez River and Clear Creek. Cross sectional data was taken for each stream reach in order to estimate stream discharge using procedures from USGS Technical Paper 2193, *Streamflow Characteristics Related to Channel Geometry of Streams in Western United States* (USGS, 1983), and the channel cross-section analyzer WinXSPRO® (FS, 1998).

Following USGS procedures (USGS, 1983), average annual discharge is calculated using the following regression equation:

$$Q_A = 64 W_{ac}^{1.88}$$

where,

 $Q_A$  = acre-feet/yr and  $W_{ac}$  = width of the active channel (width at bankfull) in feet

Utilizing the cross sections at the end of this section (SWQB/NMED field data, 1998), the width of Redondo Creek, San Antonio Creek, East Fork of the Jemez, and Clear Creek at bankfull is 3.1, 24.5, 30.5 and 12.0 feet, respectively. The calculations are shown below for each stream.

## **REDONDO CREEK:**

 $Q_A = 64(3.1)^{1.88}$ 

 $Q_A = 537$  acre feet/year

 $Q_A = 0.74 \text{ cfs}$ 

 $Q_A = 0.48 \text{ MGD}$ 

# **SAN ANTONIO CREEK:**

 $Q_A = 64(24.5)^{1.88}$ 

 $Q_A = 26,171$  acre feet/year

 $Q_A = 36.2 \text{ cfs}$ 

 $Q_A = 23.4 \text{ MGD}$ 

# **EAST FORK OF THE JEMEZ RIVER:**

 $Q_A = 64(30.5)^{1.88}$ 

 $Q_A = 39,506$  acre feet/year

 $Q_A = 54.7 \text{ cfs}$ 

 $Q_A = 35.4 \text{ MGD}$ 

## CLEAR CREEK:

 $Q_A = \overline{64(12.0^*)^{1.88}}$ 

 $Q_A = 6,840$  acre feet/year

 $Q_A = 9.5 \text{ cfs}$ 

 $Q_A = 6.1MGD$ 

Average discharge is defined as that flow rate which if continued every day of the year, would yield the observed annual volume of water. The average discharge usually fills a channel to approximately one-third of the channel depth, and this flow rate is equaled or exceeded approximately 25% of the days in a year (Leopold et al., 1964).

Average discharge is characterized by five attributes, which make it ideal for TMDL modeling:

- 1. Approximately 75% of the time, flows are less than the average discharge.
- 2. Volume carried by these flows amounts to only 25% of the annual volume.
- 3. It can be easily modeled.
- 4. It's the discharge average for 365 days (one year).

<sup>\*</sup> Estimated from field observations

The cross section of the channel and adjacent floodplain is key to predict velocity and water surface stage elevation during high and low flow events. It is important to remember that the TMDL is a planning tool to be used to achieve water quality standards. Since flows vary throughout the year in these systems the target load will vary based on the changing flow. Management of the load should set a goal at water quality standards attainment; not meeting the calculated target load.

#### **Calculations**

Target loads for turbidity (expressed as TSS) are calculated based on flow, current water quality standards, and a unit-less conversion factor (8.34) that is a used to convert mg/L units to lb/day (see Appendix A for conversion factor derivation). The target loading capacity is calculated using Equation 1 and results are shown in Table 10-1.

Equation 1.

Critical Flow (MGD) x Standard (mg/L) x 8.34 (conversion factor) = Target Loading Capacity

Location	Flow+ (MGD)	TSS (mg/L)	Conversion Factor	Target Load (lbs/day)
Redondo Creek	0.48	24.0 *	8.34	96.1
San Antonio Creek	23.4	18.2 *	8.34	3,551.8
East Fork of the Jemez River	35.4	8.0 *	8.34	2,361.9
Clear Creek	6.1	25 **	8.34	1,271.9

**Table 10-1: Calculation of Target Loads** 

The measured loads for turbidity were similarly calculated. In order to achieve comparability between the target loads and the measured loads, the flows used were the same for both calculations. The geometric mean of the data that exceeded the standards from all data collected at each site was substituted for the standard in Equation 1. The data for each stream segment is located in Table 10-6 at the end of this section. The same conversion factor of 8.34 was used. Results for measured loads are presented in Table 10-2 for turbidity.

It was not possible to calculate background loads in this watershed. A reference reach, having similar stream channel morphology and flow, was not found. It is assumed that a portion of the load allocation is made up of natural background loads. In future water quality surveys, finding a suitable reference reach will be a priority.

<sup>+</sup>Since USGS gages were unavailable on these reaches, flows are modeled using the cross sectional data (included at end of this section) that are used to estimate stream discharge using USGS Technical Paper 2193 (USGS, 1983).

<sup>\*</sup>These values are calculated using the relationship established between TSS and turbidity based on regression equations shown in Figures 10-1 through 10-4 at the end of this section.

<sup>\*\*</sup>No relationship was established between TSS and turbidity for Clear Creek. A 1:1 relationship is assumed and the value of 25 NTU is translated into 25 mg/L TSS in this case.

**Table 10-2: Calculation of Measured Loads** 

Location	Flow <sup>+</sup> (MGD)	TSS Geometric Mean* (mg/L)	Conversion Factor	TSS Measured Load (lbs/day)
Redondo Creek	0.48	35.2	8.34	140.9
San Antonio Creek	23.4	29.8	8.34	5,815.6
East Fork of the Jemez River	35.4	36.6	8.34	10,805.6
Clear Creek	6.1	26.7	8.34	1,358.3

<sup>+</sup>Since USGS gages were unavailable on these reaches, flows are modeled using the cross sectional data (included at end of this section) that are used to estimate stream discharge using USGS Technical Paper 2193 (USGS, 1983).

#### **Waste Load Allocations and Load Allocations**

#### •Waste Load Allocation

There are no point source contributions associated with this TMDL. The waste load allocation (WLA) is zero.

#### •Load Allocation

In order to calculate the load allocation (LA), the WLA and margin of safety (MOS) were subtracted from the target capacity (TMDL) using Equation 2. The MOS is estimated to be 25% of the TMDL calculated in Equation 1.

Equation 2. 
$$WLA + LA + MOS = TMDL$$

Results using a Margin of Safety (MOS) of 25% (explained further in this section) are presented in Table 10-3 as follows:

**Table 10-3: Calculation of TMDL for Turbidity** 

Location	WLA (lb/day)	LA (lb/day)	MOS 25% (lb/day)	TMDL (lb/day)
Redondo Creek	0	72.1	24.0	96.1
San Antonio Creek	0	2,663.9	888.0	3,551.8
East Fork of the Jemez River	0	1,771.4	590.5	2,361.9
Clear Creek	0	953.9	318.0	1,271.9

<sup>\*</sup>These are the geometric means of TSS values that exceeded the numeric standard (Table 10-6)

The load reductions necessary to meet the target loads were calculated to be the difference between the load allocations (Table 10-3) and the measured load (Table 10-2) and are shown in Table 10-4.

Table 10-4: Calculation of Load Reductions (lb/day)

Location	Load Allocation (lb/day)	Measured Load (lb/day)	Load Reductions (lb/day)
Redondo Creek	72.1	140.9	68.8
San Antonio Creek	2,663.9	5,815.6	3,151.7
East Fork of the Jemez River	1,771.4	10,805.6	9,034.2
Clear Creek	953.9	1,358.3	404.4

# **Identification and Description of Pollutant Source(s)**

Pollutant sources that could contribute to each segment are listed in Table 10-5.

**Table 10-5. Pollutant Source Summary** 

Pollutant Sources	Magnitude (WLA+LA+MOS) (lb/day)	Location	Potential Sources (apply to three segments) (% from each)
<u>Point</u> : None	0		0%
Nonpoint:			100%
	96.1	Redondo Creek	Rangeland
Turbidity	3,551.8	San Antonio Creek	Siviculture, Land development, Natural, Recreation, Removal of Riparian Vegetation, Streambank Modification/ Destabilization.
	2,361.9	East Fork of the Jemez River	Rangeland, Siviculture, Recreation, Streambank Modification/Destabilization.
	1,271.9	Clear Creek	Streambank Modification/ Destabilization

# LINK BETWEEN WATER QUALITY AND POLLUTANT SOURCES

Where available data are incomplete or where the level of uncertainty in the characterization of sources is large, the recommended approach to TMDL assignments requires the development of allocations based on estimates utilizing the best available information.

SWQB fieldwork includes an assessment of the potential sources of impairment (SWQB/NMED, 1999). The Pollutant Source(s) Documentation Protocol, shown as Appendix B, provides an approach for a visual analysis of the source along an impaired reach. Although this procedure is subjective, SWQB feels that it provides the best available information for the identification of potential sources of impairment in this watershed. Table 10-5 (Pollutant Source Summary) identifies and quantifies potential sources of nonpoint source impairments along each reach as determined by field reconnaissance and assessment.

# **MARGIN OF SAFETY (MOS)**

TMDLs should reflect a margin of safety based on the uncertainty or variability in the data, the point and nonpoint source load estimates, and the modeling analysis. For this TMDL, there will be no margin of safety for point sources, since there are none. However, for the nonpoint sources the margin of safety is estimated to be an addition of 25% for turbidity (SWQB/NMED, 2000) to the TMDLs, excluding background. This margin of safety incorporates several factors:

## •Errors in calculating NPS loads

A level of uncertainty exists in sampling nonpoint sources of pollution. Accordingly, a conservative margin of safety for turbidity increases the TMDL by 15%.

#### •Errors in calculating flow

Flow estimates were based on estimated mean average discharge using cross sectional information found at the end of this section (SWQB/NMED field data) and USGS Technical Paper 2193 (USGS, 1983). To be conservative, an additional 10% will be included to account for accuracy of flow measures.

#### CONSIDERATION OF SEASONAL VARIATION

Data used in the calculation of this TMDL were collected during spring, summer, and fall of 1998 in order to ensure coverage of any potential seasonal variation in the system. It is assumed that if the critical conditions are met, coverage of any potential seasonal variation will also be met.

#### **FUTURE GROWTH**

Estimations of future growth are not anticipated to lead to a significant increase for turbidity that cannot be controlled with best management practice implementation in this watershed.

TABLE 10-6: TURBIDITY AND TSS RESULTS DURING 1998-1999 SAMPLING EFFORT

	Station 11 -	l - Redondo Creek   Station 9 - San Antonio Creek (lower)   Station 10 - San Antonio Cree		antonio Creek (middle)		
Sampling date	Turbidity (NTU)	TSS (mg/L)	Turbidity (NTU)	TSS (mg/L)	Turbidity (NTU)	TSS (mg/L)
4/20/1998	16.5	8	21	14	22.8	13
4/21/1998	16.2	6	24.4	18	22.8	13
4/22/1998	17.2	8	* 26.2	23	* 26.5	17
4/23/1998	* 29.5	24	* 31.3	23	* 27.5	21.5
7/13/1998	* 42.1	63	17.5	19	8.4	< 3
7/14/1998	17.9	10	14.2	11	7.9	< 3
11/2/1998	11.9	< 3	* 33.9	22	* 34.7	28
GEOMETRIC MEAN OF EXCEEDANCES>	-	38.9			22.2	

	Station 8 - East Fork of the Jemez River					
Sampling date	Turbidity (NTU)	TSS (mg/L)				
4/20/1998	19.5	4				
4/21/1998	19.8	3				
4/22/1998	18.6	5				
4/23/1998	20	4				
7/13/1998	* 42.6	22				
7/14/1998	12.4	< 3				
11/2/1998	* 31.5	9				
GEOMETRIC MEAN OF EXCEEDANCES>		14.1				

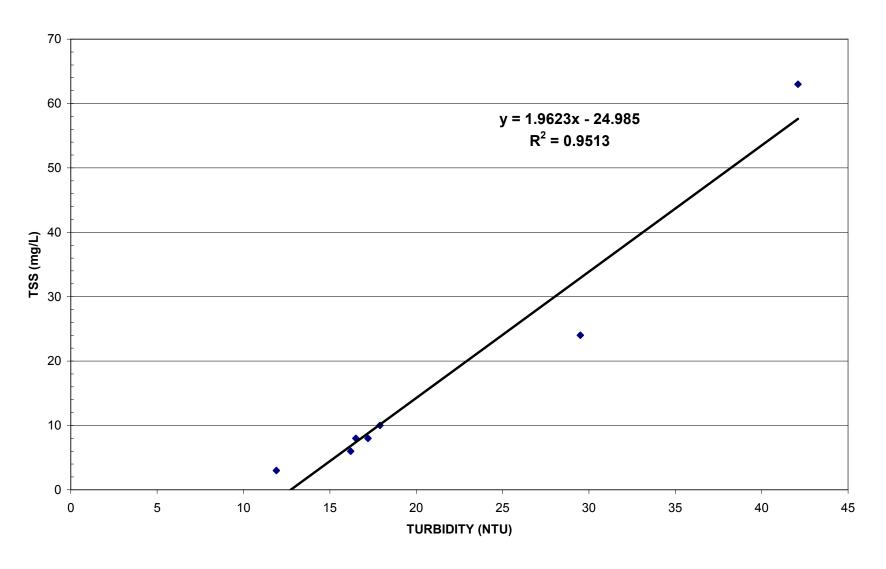
	Station 22 - Clear Creek				
Sampling date	Turbidity (NTU)	TSS (mg/L)			
7/13/1998	12.4	4			
7/14/1998	13.7	10			
7/15/1998	14.3	5			
7/16/1998	15.2	3			
11/2/1998	* 27.5	6			
11/3/1998	* 26.8	< 3			
11/4/1998	* 25.9	< 3			
GEOMETRIC MEAN OF EXCEEDANCES>	3.8				

NOTE: The geometric mean of exceedances is the geometric mean of TSS values when the turbidity standard is exceeded (25 NTU)

<sup>\*</sup> Exceedance

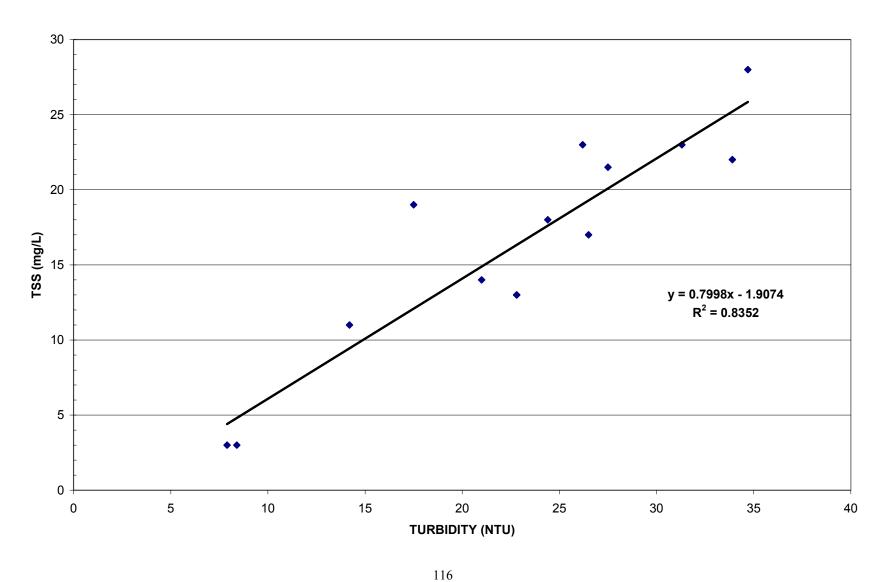
FIGURE 10-1
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TURBIDITY AND TOTAL SUSPENDED SEDIMENT

# **REDONDO CREEK**



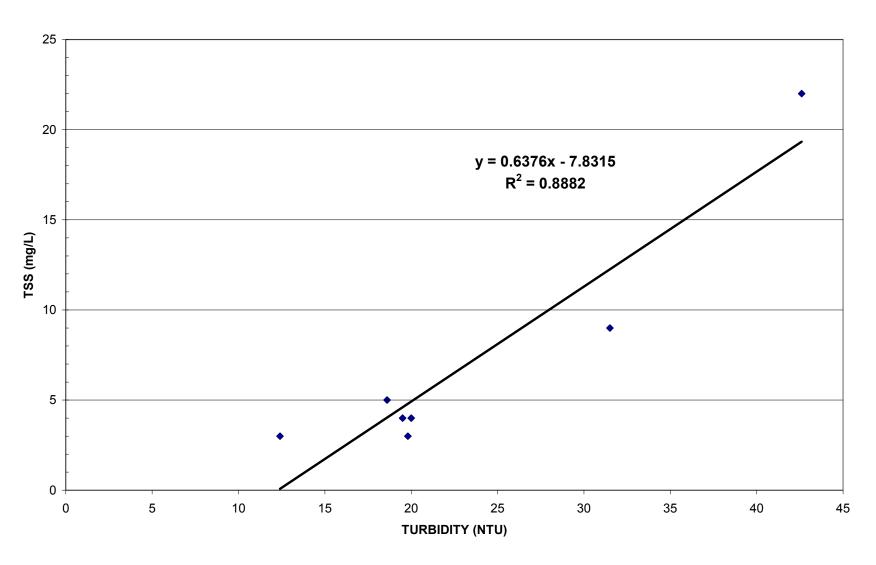
**FIGURE 10-2** RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TURBIDITY AND TOTAL SUSPENDED SEDIMENT

# **SAN ANTONIO CREEK**



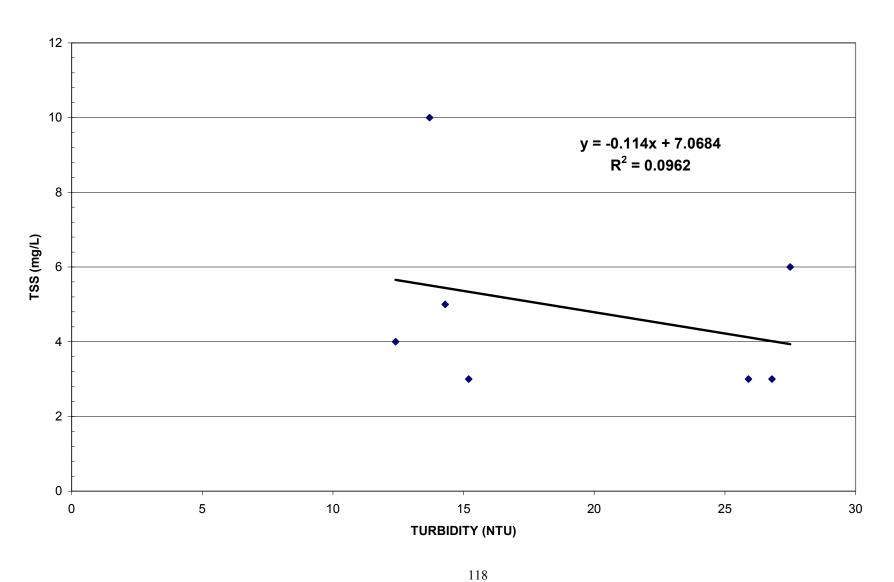
# FIGURE 10-3 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TURBIDITY AND TOTAL SUSPENDED SEDIMENT

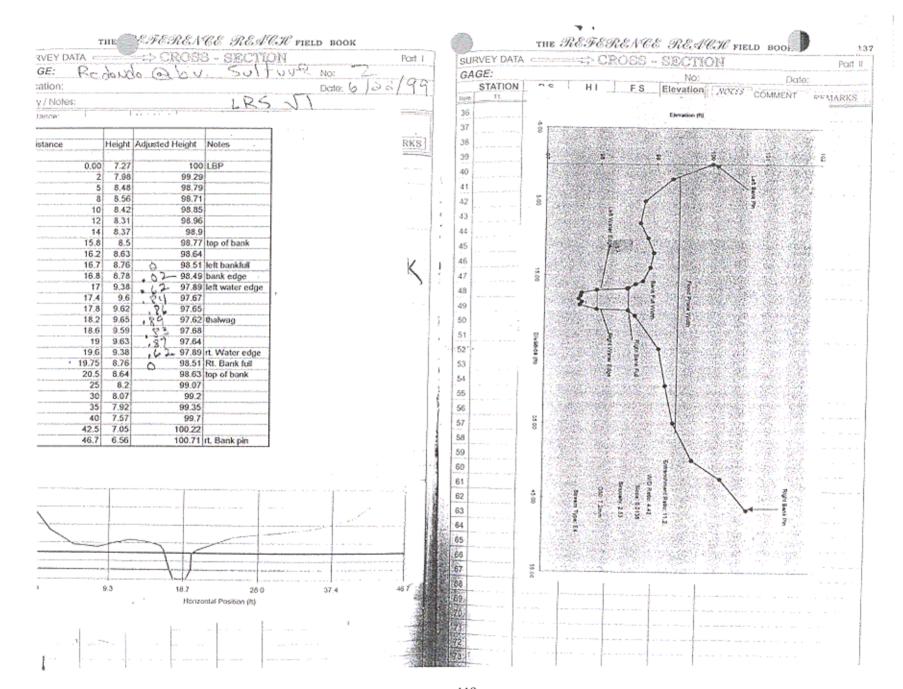
# **EAST FORK OF THE JEMEZ RIVER**



# **FIGURE 10-4** RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TURBIDITY AND TOTAL SUSPENDED SEDIMENT

# **CLEAR CREEK**





# THE REFERENCE REACH FIELD 5

REDONDO POV GULPTUR

16-1000 W. Brat W. dlk Doph Area RPM Valory Q

18-1000 W. dlk Doph Area RPM

.19 . 149

input file: Bin Date: inalysis Procedure: (ross Section Myeber: Turvey Date:

C:\WXSPROZG\REBRADA. \$41 Hydraulics 05/28/99

Subsections/Dividing stations

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0.87 0.88 0.83	1 † 7	74.5 P4.5 55.5	3.75 4.03 4.03	2-15 3-00 3-05	0-59 0-55 0-55 0-54	0.73 0.73 0.73	0-015 0-015 0-015	0.050 0.050 0-050	2.42 2.42 2.43

EABLE 6-8. Bank prodibility hazard rating guide. (Ranger, 1990)

	, –	1.			BAN	K EROS	SION POT	CENTIA	L			
CRITERIA	VER	Low	: Do	W.	MODE	RATE	H	IGH	VERY	нісн	EXTR	EME
	PARTIE	1969EX	VALUE	mean	VALUE	DOM	: Yester	POEX	PALLY	INDEX	LARGE	1904
Bank Helfst III	10-13	(0.19	1,1-1,19	20-39	1245	10-59	1.6-2.0	0079	21-28	12000	144	10
Root Depthe Bank Ht	1009	10-19	0.89 030	2032	0.19 0.30	4030	0.29 1.13	60-73	0.14-05	8090	1.05	10
Red Denis (%)	A0-100	10-19	55-79	2000	30.54	4059	25-29 -	60-7.9	5-14	50.00	65.0	10
Bank Ande (Depres)	0-20	10-14	21.60	2034	61-90	4059	81.00	60-7.9	91-159	80-90	3150	15
Sugar Prot. (%)	60-100	1.0 1.9	55.70	20-3.9	30-54	40-59	15-29	9.7-0.0	: 50×16	8040	10 mg/m	 FD
POTALS												
	Lanconia man	595		10-195		20-29.5		20-39.5		10-45		46.50
Santerkal Adjustments												

BANK MATERIALS: BEDROCK: BANK EBOSION POTENTIAL ALWAYS VERY LOW

BOULDERS: BANK EROSION POTENTIAL LOW

COBBLE: DECREASE BY ONE CATEGORY UNLESS MIXTURE OF GRAVELISAND IS OVER 50%.

GRAVEL: ADJUST VALUES UP BY 5-10 POINTS DEPENDING ON COMPOSITION OF SAND

SAND: ADJUST VALUES OF BY 10 POINTS

SILT/CLAY: NO ADJUSTMENT

STRATIFICATION: 5-10 POINTS (UPWARD) DEPENDING ON POSITION OF UNSTABLE LAYERS IN RELATION TO

BANKFULL STAGE

TABLE 6-9. Stress in the near-bank region, conversion of numerical indices to adjective ratings.

#### CONVERSION OF NUMERICAL INDICES TO ADJECTIVE RATINGS

Near Bank Stress Rating	Velocity Gradient***	v upvv	Near Bank Stress/Mean Shear Stress'	
Low	1.0-1.2	.32 or less	.32 or less	
Moderate	1.21-1.6	.3341	.35	
High «	1.61-2.0	.4245	.6-1.0	
Very High	2.1-2.3	-4650	1.1-1.3	
Extreme 4	2.4 or more	.51 or more	1.4 or more	

Near bank shear stress/mean shear stress

(shear stress = depth slope water density)

A = cross-sectional airea: Near-bank cross-sectional area = width depth for 1/3 of the channel width in the near bank region.

Velocity gradient in fi/secft is the difference in velocity from the core of velocity isover along the authorized to the core of velocity isover.

along the orthogonal length to bank region in feet.

